



Testimony of Richard Parks in opposition to SB-306

Madam Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Richard Parks. I own and operate a sporting goods store and fishing outfitting business in Gardiner, Montana. I appear today on behalf of Northern Plains Resource Council. Many of our members were actively engaged in supporting the passage of the citizen initiative which is the subject of this bill. Our affiliate community group Beartooth Alliance, based in Cooke City, MT has been very involved in and supportive of the reclamation project near that community that I understand supplies the alleged underlying motivation for this bill.

The first thing you need to understand about this bill is that it isn't necessary to the project - it was set to go ahead until the state of Wyoming vetoed it because they didn't want the tails in question to be trucked through that state as would have been necessary.

The second thing you need to know is that if this bill was actually about allowing materials from approved reclamation and restoration projects to be processed by Golden Sunlight lines 15 through 18 could say so explicitly.

Since the effective language of this bill is very open ended we have no alternative but to believe that regardless of any stated intent otherwise, it is in fact an end-run around the ban, a ban that the citizens of this state enacted for very good reasons.

Make no mistake - this bill allows the opening of new open pit gold and silver mines using cyanide processing. For that reason we stand opposed to SB-306 and ask that it receive a Do Not Pass recommendation. I am available to answer any questions the committee may have and I thank you for the opportunity to appear on this issue.